

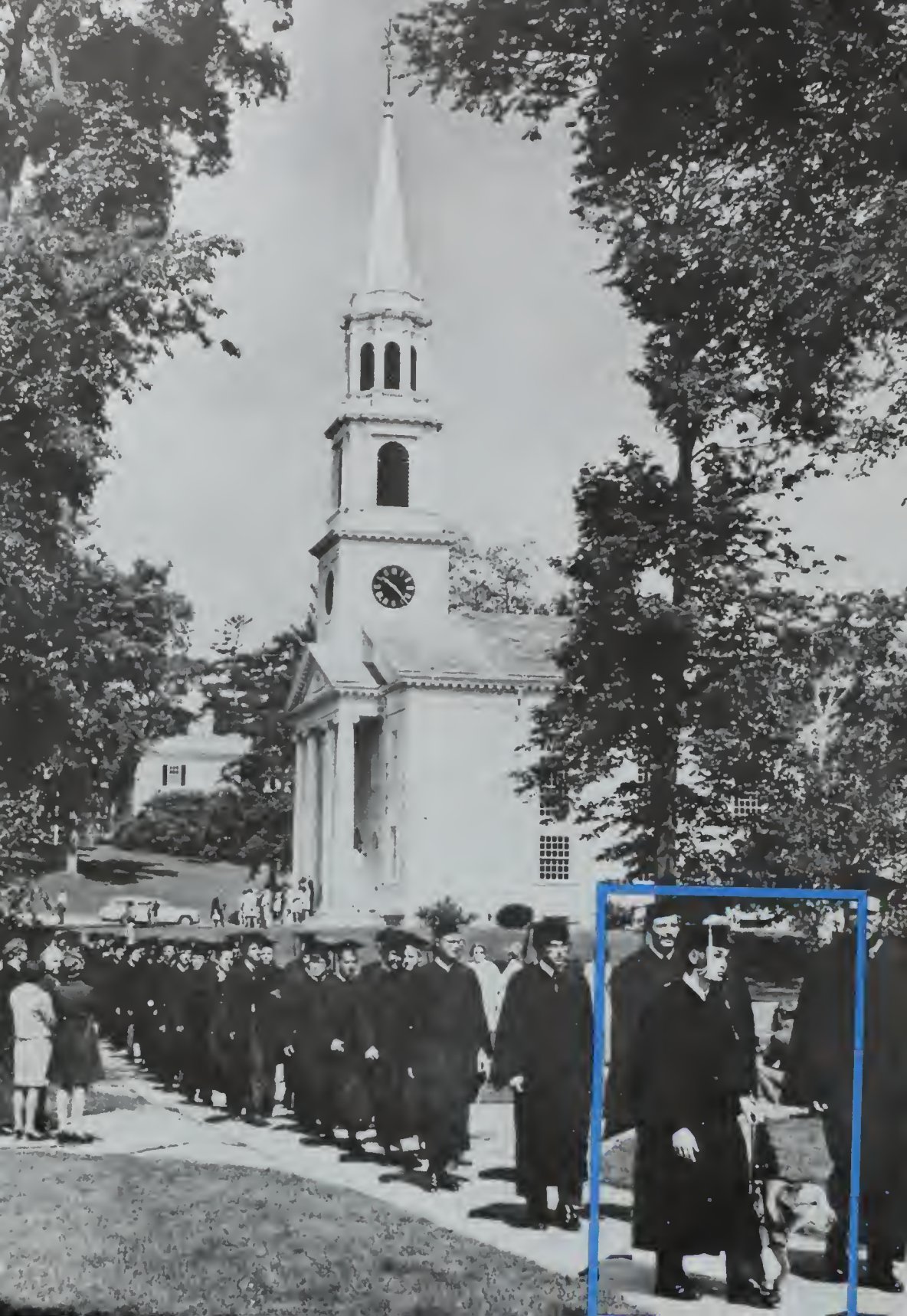


Free Educational Books



Making a World of Difference

**Recording for the Blind, Inc.
Annual Report 1974-75**





From our president

Education shapes everyone's course. It is a primary axis and life-support, essential in achieving acceptance

and dignity in the everyday competitive world. But the blind, seeking the same excellences, the same prizes from life, need a well-rounded education even more than the sighted, and they must obtain it with the applied resources of their own minds and hearing and touch.

Recording for the Blind's work continues to turn on that fact. It is responsibly providing a comprehensive span of aural textbooks that afford blind students in all 50 states a handy means of reading, studying and working alongside the seeing. By helping to optimize the learning capability of thousands of forward-looking blind Americans, RFB is replacing dependency with the preparedness that brings independence.

Blind citizens who have used RFB study aids to climb the Everest of higher education are now moving in arenas considered improbable only a few years ago. While narrow attitudes that equate blindness with helplessness are still all too common, active, intelligent and free moving blind persons are nevertheless making encouraging breakthroughs in many productive fields, including teaching, law, computer technology, psychology and social work. In a time of rising expectations for our young blind population, with many major employers taking affirmative action to employ qualified blind individuals, there is no question that RFB's free program, put into action by Anne Thompson Macdonald almost 25

years ago, is today a more vital, life-strengthening educational resource than ever before.

This report pays tribute to our conscientious Unit Chairmen and the legion of other dedicated volunteers whose donated work has always been RFB's mainspring. We are also grateful to the thousands of perceptive Americans whose generous financial contributions keep our machinery turning. While a rousing 11 per cent jump in our book circulation this year is highly gratifying, it foreshadows the inevitable increase in service the years ahead will demand of us. As the needs of blind scholars grow, and as RFB's costs rise steadily, our continued success will depend on the increased level of support we receive from the philanthropic public and other available sources. Indeed, broadening those financial sources, both present and potential, is now our first priority.

A special word about Don Staley, who recently relinquished his duties as RFB's Executive Director in order to devote his fulltime energies to activating a number of important and long-delayed special projects. Mr. Staley's outstanding leadership over a productive decade has left a lasting imprint on our organization's development. He has turned over the reins of a sound, burgeoning program to Stuart Carothers, who comes to RFB with an equally distinguished record of accomplishment.

I greatly hope that this report of continued progress will reinforce our case for your enduring confidence and support.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John W. Castles". The signature is stylized with a large "J" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

John W. Castles 3d



JAMES SLAGLE—Mathematician

Despite blindness, Jim Slagle won his Ph.D. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Now recognized as one of the nation's top research mathematicians, he is Chief of the Heuristics Laboratory in the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, and also teaches at Johns Hopkins University. Jim continues to depend on RFB to provide the highly technical recorded reading essential to his work.



LAURA SLOATE—Security Analyst

Blind since she was six, Laura Sloate graduated from Barnard College and earned an M.A. from Columbia University. She then literally "broke into" the securities business and acquired five years of experience among skeptical colleagues. Today, she owns a seat on the stock exchange and is rated as one of Wall Street's brightest "money managers." Laura wrote: **"I owe a great deal to RFB for the solid educational grounding that was so essential in preparing myself for a place in a highly competitive profession."**



RECORDING FOR THE BLIND (RFB) DELIVERS AN EDUCATIONAL SERVICE THAT SPEAKS VOLUMES

Hearing is the best channel of intellectual input for thousands of blind students across the United States. Recorded reading is their primary access to the printed word, especially at high school and college levels. Knowledge assimilated by ear can measurably improve the blind's potential for success in integrated classrooms, and can help

them not only to understand the knowable world but discern their own best selves and highest goals.

RFB's singular role is to reproduce all manner of educational books aurally and make them easily available to blind listeners as comprehensible tape recordings in open reel and cassette form. An RFB book is supplied on request



either as a complete copy of one of the more than 30,000 titles already recorded and stored in RFB's Master Tape Library



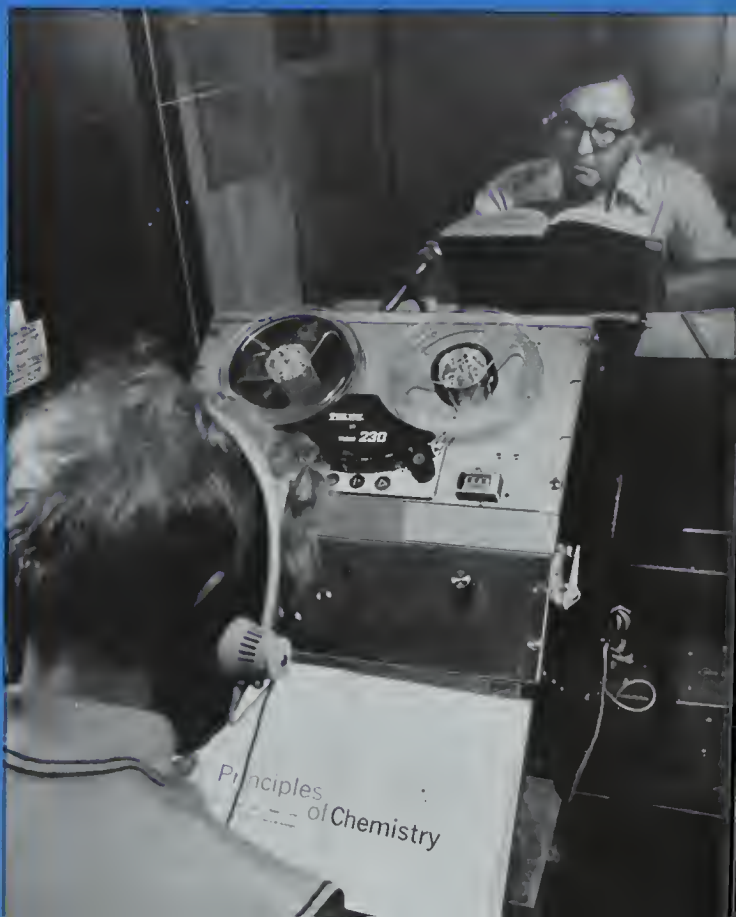
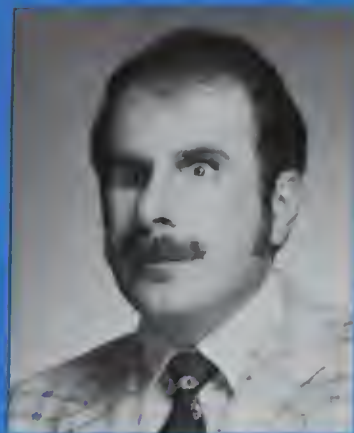
or as a book newly rendered and dispatched a section at a time from one of RFB's 27 recording centers located in 15 states.

RFB also serves students who cannot read due to physical handicaps other than blindness—such as cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis, and dyslexia (the perceptual disorder that makes youngsters and adults “word blind.”)

An effective coming together of purely voluntary commitment and skill, RFB functions as the vital national educational counterpart to the federally funded recreational TALKING BOOKS program of the Library of Congress.

JAMES ELSTON—College Professor

Professor Elston turned to teaching after earning a law degree and practicing successfully for six years. He presently teaches constitutional law at the University of Arkansas and credits RFB for helping to make his success possible: **"The many men and women who have contributed their time, energy and financial resources to Recording for the Blind should realize that their most notable achievement has been to enable blind persons to participate on a plane of equality with their sighted colleagues."**



USING THE EYES AND BRAINPOWER OF THOUSANDS OF VOLUNTEERS

RFB is what it is today because of a champion degree of volunteer dedication. Our organization bands together a special breed of qualified volunteer who is comfortable in the world of advanced learning, and who can provide an exacting articulation of textbooks of great depth and complexity. Many RFB volunteers also serve as equally important monitors, who proofread the recordings as they take place, correct errors in pronunciation or phrasing,

maintain line by line accuracy, and apply scrupulous technical standards as well.

In 1974-75, RFB volunteers from every walk of life produced 4,290 new curriculum-related books. Completely recorded, these new volumes were sent directly to waiting students and copies are now available to multiple future borrowers through RFB's proliferating Master Tape Library.

A UNIQUE CIRCULATING LIBRARY SHEDDING LIGHT ON MYRIAD SUBJECTS

An unmatched concentration of recorded books, covering the entire mosaic of higher education, RFB's Master Tape Library is a treasury of enlightenment for the nation's listening blind. Currently comprising over 30,000 titles—history, the social and physical sciences, religion, law, classic and modern literature, languages, philosophy, art,

music, an amalgam of scientific books in all their profusion of technical detail—no other library of aural books anywhere covers so vast a field of learning.

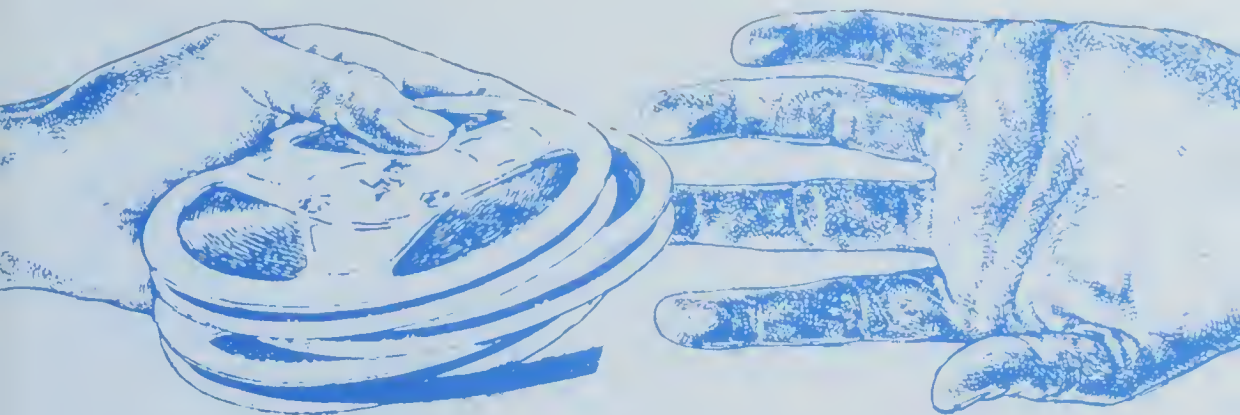
In 1974-75, RFB's library circulated, free on loan, 1,274,839 hours of taped reading, the full product of human intelligence, tuned to the specific needs of the educable blind.



DAVID HARTMAN—Medical Student

25 year old David Hartmen is the first blind student admitted to any American medical school in this century. He wants to be a psychiatrist for the handicapped and he must first qualify as a medical doctor. Having devoured over 30 monumental medical works recorded for him by RFB, he has successfully completed his first two years at Temple University School of Medicine. David recently wrote: **"You will never know how reassuring it was to have the major surgical text at my reach on tape. I don't know where I would be if it were not for the supportive volunteers at Recording for the Blind."**





At a glance:RFB's 1974-75 Service Record



10,995 persons, most of them blind, some with physical or perceptual handicaps, used RFB's free services (**10.2% more than the preceding year**).



They included 4,324 blind college students (95% of the estimated number in the United States), and the predominant part of the nation's blind high school population.



RFB users requested and received 75,209 completely recorded books (**11.1% more than the preceding year**).



Almost 94% of those books were duplicated from masters stocked in RFB's Master Tape Library, which, as of June 30, 1975, contained 30,621 titles.



Nationwide, 4,563 volunteers recorded 4,290 new books (representing 336,228 hours of donated work).

"... IT IS A GREAT CREDIT TO OUR COUNTRY THAT IT IS MATURE AND WISE ENOUGH TO RECOGNIZE TALENT WHEREVER IT IS FOUND AND GIVE THAT TALENT OPPORTUNITY ON THE BASIS OF EQUALITY"

Vice President Nelson A. Rockefeller

So remarked the Vice President when he graciously presented RFB's \$500 Scholastic Achievement Awards for 1975 to three of the nation's first-ranking blind college seniors.

The following brief profiles speak for themselves. While all blind students,

like their sighted peers, do not finish first, those who have a vision of their future, and choose the taxing upward path toward it, can and do reach the top of their class. The three 1975 winners, heavy users of RFB books and self-emancipators all, were:

- ☐ **CARYN NAVY**, 21, from Brooklyn, N.Y., graduated from Massachusetts Institute of Technology with a B.S. in Mathematics and the distinction of being the first blind woman undergraduate in M.I.T. history. Scoring in the top ten per cent of her class, Caryn's goal is to teach advanced math.

- ☐ **MICHAEL LEVY**, 23, from Bradley Beach, N.J., graduated from both Columbia University and the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, with, concurrently, a B.A. in psychology from Columbia and a Bachelor of Hebrew Literature degree from the Seminary. Michael maintained an extraordinary level of performance at two highly competitive institutions and his rabbinical training also took him to Israel for a year.

- **LINDA SCHNEIDER**, 23, from Arlington, Va., graduated from Trinity College, Washington, D.C., Phi Beta Kappa, with a B.A. in English. Despite a hearing deficiency as well, Linda earned an almost perfect scholastic average and is now attending Georgetown Law School.

In presenting the awards to (from left) Linda Schneider, Michael Levy, and Caryn Navy, Vice President Nelson A. Rockefeller also said: **"Not only are we honoring these three, but Recording for The Blind for its vital role."**



BEQUEST FORM

The free services outlined in this report are supported with voluntary financial contributions which are deductible for tax purposes. Legacies and bequests, wholly free from Federal estate and gift taxes, mean important support for Recording for the Blind's ongoing work. These gifts may be made in the form of money, stocks, bonds or securities, real estate, or other property of value, and in the form of lease or royalty assignments and life insurance. The following form may be useful: **"I give and bequeath to Recording for the Blind, Inc., having its National Headquarters at 215 East 58th Street, New York, N.Y. 10022, the sum of _____ dollars (or the following described property _____) to be used for its general corporate purposes."**

RECORDING FOR THE BLIND, INCORPORATED

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF SUPPORT, REVENUE AND EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE

For the Year Ended June 30, 1975

PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE:

Public support:	
Contributions and legacies	\$1,945,007
Special events	40,144
Revenue:	
Investment income	86,259
Miscellaneous	19,433
	<hr/>
	2,090,843
Donated services (Note 1A)	2,656,150
	<hr/>
	4,746,993

EXPENSES:

Program services:	
Recording studio (excluding donated services shown below)	485,694
Production	582,904
Circulation	212,749
Central library	65,992
Unit coordination	58,908
Supporting services:	
Administration	336,790
Fund raising	351,302
Public information	50,057
	<hr/>
	2,144,396
Donated recording studio services (Note 1A)	2,656,150
	<hr/>
	4,800,546
Excess of expenses over public support and revenue (Note 3)	<hr/>
	(53,553)
Fund balance at beginning of year	<hr/>
	3,342,118
Prior period adjustments:	
Capitalization of fixed assets (Note 1B)	43,404
	<hr/>
Adjusted fund balance at beginning of year	3,385,522
Fund balance at end of year	<hr/>
	\$3,331,969

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS

To the Board of Directors of Recording for the Blind, Incorporated

We have examined the consolidated balance sheet of Recording for the Blind, Incorporated and its Recording Units as of June 30, 1975 and the related consolidated statements of support, revenue and expenses and changes in fund balances and of functional expenses for the year then ended. Our examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and accordingly included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances, including confirmation of the cash and securities owned at June 30, 1975 by correspondence with the depositories.

We did not examine the financial statements of certain Recording Units, which statements

(Continued on next page)

RECORDING FOR THE BLIND, INCORPORATED

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

June 30, 1975

ASSETS

Cash:	
Demand accounts	\$ 88,970
Savings accounts	727,255
Marketable securities, at cost less reserve for loss on investments of \$52,000 (market value approximately \$725,000)	708,349
Endowment fund investments, at cost (market value approximately \$380,000):	
National Headquarters and Recording Units	179,381
Other (Note 4)	228,777
Pledges receivable	168,500
Other assets	65,507
Land, building and equipment, at cost less accumulated depreciation of \$400,538 (Note 2)	1,459,392
	<u>\$3,626,131</u>

LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES

Payroll taxes and accounts payable	\$ 96,487
Deed of trust on Charlottesville property	25,000
Deferred income	172,682
	<u>294,169</u>
Fund balances:	
Unrestricted general funds:	
Available for current operations	943,534
Funds functioning as endowment	388,583
Expended for land, building and equipment	1,434,392
Total	2,766,509
Restricted general funds (Note 3)	157,302
Endowment funds:	
National Headquarters and Recording Units	179,381
Other (Note 4)	228,777
	<u>3,331,969</u>
	<u>\$3,626,131</u>

(Continued from preceding page)

reflect total assets and revenue constituting approximately thirty-five percent of the related consolidated totals. These statements were examined by other auditors whose reports thereon have been furnished to us and our opinion expressed herein, insofar as it relates to the amounts included for such Recording Units, is based solely upon the reports of the other auditors.

In our opinion, based upon our examination and the reports of other auditors, the consolidated financial statements examined by us present fairly the financial position of Recording for the Blind, Incorporated and its Recording Units at June 30, 1975 and the results of their operations for the year then ended in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles consistently applied.

PRICE WATERHOUSE & CO.

September 8, 1975
New York, N.Y.

RECORDING FOR THE BLIND, INCORPORATED
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1975

	Program Services			
	Recording studio	Production	Circulation	Ce lib
Donated services				
Salaries and payroll taxes	\$252,397	\$342,719	\$127,996	\$39
Insurance and employee benefits	14,607	33,673	12,441	3
Professional fees		5,618		
Building repairs and maintenance	32,516	25,051	12,046	2
Printed materials and supplies	9,015	96	22,112	
Telephone and telegraph	5,056			
Postage and mailing	7,130		29,956	4
Tapes	76,406	90,578		
Packaging of books and tapes	321	39,179	561	1
Equipment repairs and maintenance	30,842	15,709		
Data processing		2,628	5,859	2
Books and publications	1,755			7
Travel	2,687	917		
Unit conference	663			
Awards	5,250			
Miscellaneous	9,743	402	86	
Total expenses before depreciation and amortization	448,388	556,570	211,057	63
Depreciation of building and equipment	37,306	26,334	1,692	2
Total expenses	\$485,694	\$582,904	\$212,749	\$65

* Includes \$2,631,652 of recording studios donated services and \$24,498 of administrative donated services.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — JUNE 30, 1975

NOTE 1 — Significant Accounting Policies:

The consolidated financial statements include the National Headquarters of Recording for the Blind, Incorporated and its Recording Units and their affiliated organizations. Significant accounting policies used are as follows:

A—Donated services:

Recording for the Blind, Incorporated follows the practice of recording the estimated value of donated services received to comply with the provisions of the AICPA Industry Audit Guide for Voluntary Health and Welfare Organizations. Donated services for Recording for the Blind, Incorporated consist primarily of time spent by volunteers valued at \$7.50 per hour. These donated services are recorded as both public support and expenses; therefore, there is no effect on the excess of public support and revenue over expenses.

B—Fixed assets:

In 1973 RFB adopted the practice of capitalizing all expenditures for land, building and equipment and depreciation of assets on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of the assets. However, certain units were unable to implement this policy until 1974 and 1975. The fair market value of donated fixed assets is similarly capitalized. The opening fund balance in the consolidated financial statements has been adjusted to record both fixed assets purchased in prior years and accumulated depreciation thereon.

C—Contributions:

All contributions are considered to be available for unrestricted use unless specifically restricted by the donor. Pledges are recorded as received and amounts designated by the donor as applicable to future periods are deferred.

Supporting Services

Central Library	Unit coordination	Donated services	Administration	Fund raising	Public information	Total expenses
		\$2,656,150 *				\$2,656,150
\$39,969	\$14,979		\$160,911	\$ 77,462	\$31,046	1,047,479
3,874	1,415		12,959	7,376	3,054	89,399
			52,120	43,706		101,444
2,994	1,796		38,877	7,526	4,234	125,040
584	710		20,029	36,359	2,290	91,195
			18,686	116	2,459	26,317
4,201	1,359		5,813	169,204		217,663
			17			167,001
1,747						41,808
	2,606		246			49,403
2,606			33			11,126
7,385	23,040		64			32,244
	7,816		6,814	7,468	48	25,750
	3,838		603			5,104
					6,613	11,863
	1,349		9,006	1,145	313	22,044
\$3,360	58,908	2,656,150	326,178	350,362	50,057	4,721,030
2,632			10,612	940		79,516
\$55,992	\$58,908	\$2,656,150	\$336,790	\$351,302	\$50,057	\$4,800,546

services.

NOTE 2 — Land, Building and Equipment and Depreciation:

At June 30, 1975 the costs of fixed assets were:

Land	\$ 333,534
Buildings	807,463
Improvements	166,368
Recording equipment	485,739
Office equipment	66,826
	<u>1,859,930</u>
Less—Accumulated depreciation	400,538
	<u>\$1,459,392</u>

NOTE 3 — Restricted General Funds:

Restricted general funds at June 30, 1975 represent contributions that were designated for new equipment, and conversion from tape reels to tape cassettes. Transactions for the year were as follows:

Balance at beginning of year	\$182,897
Contributions	141,675
Expenditures	<u>(167,270)</u>
Balance at end of year	\$157,302

NOTE 4 — Endowment Funds:

Endowment funds include \$228,777 of investments held by Peninsula Endowment Fund, Inc. The income from the Peninsula Endowment Fund, which is a separate legal entity, is intended primarily for use by the San Francisco unit of Recording for the Blind.



RECORDING FOR THE BLIND

is open for service
at these locations:

Arizona

3100 E. Roosevelt St.
Phoenix 85008
(602) 273-7084

12630 103rd Ave.
Sun City 85351
(602) 977-6020

California

5022 Hollywood Blvd.
Los Angeles 90027
(213) 664-5525

McAlister Center
919 Columbia Ave.
Claremont 91711
(714) 624-4156

488 W. Charleston Rd.
Palo Alto 94306
(415) 493-3717

*Trinity Church
State & Micheltorena Sts.
Santa Barbara 93101

Colorado

305 Milwaukee St.
Denver 80206
(303) 388-6594

Connecticut

133 Elm St.
New Haven 06510
(203) 865-5083

*District of Columbia

3315 Dent Place N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20007
(202) 333-3315

Florida

5801 Red Road
Coral Gables 33143
(305) 666-0552

Georgia

120 Florida Ave.
Athens 30601
(404) 549-1313

Illinois

600 S. Michigan Ave.
Chicago 60605
(312) 939-4162

University of Chicago
Ryerson Hall
1100 East 58th St.
Chicago 60637
(312) 288-7077

708 Oak St.
Winnetka 60093
(312) 446-3338

LaGrange Rd. & 143rd St.
Orland Park 60462
(312) 349-9356

University of Illinois
Champaign 61820
(217) 333-4605

North Central College
Naperville 60540
(312) 420-0722

Kentucky

240 Haldeman Ave.
Louisville 40206
(502) 895-9068

Belknap Campus
University of Louisville
(502) 636-4580

10817 LaGrange Rd.
Anchorage 40223
(502) 245-5811

Massachusetts

Lenox Library
Lenox 01240
(413) 637-0889

168 Cole Avenue
Williamstown 01267
(413) 458-3641

Michigan

Kresge Science Library
Wayne State University
Detroit 48202
(313) 833-0048

2480 Opdyke Rd.
Bloomfield Hills 48013
(313) 642-4561

New Jersey

100 Stockton St.
Princeton 08540
(609) 921-6534

New York

215 East 58th St.
New York, N.Y. 10022
(212) 751-0860

Tennessee

205 Badger Road
Oak Ridge 37830
(615) 482-3496

Texas

Kirby Hall
306-B West 29th St.
Austin 78705
(512) 477-9390

Virginia

1021 Millmont St.
Charlottesville 22901
(804) 296-4797

*Being formed

Recording for the Blind, Inc.

National Headquarters
215 East 58th Street, New York, N.Y. 10022

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